

## Become a Friend of Los Gatos Public Library

*Off The Shelf* is published quarterly by Friends of Los Gatos Public Library, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization established to encourage use of the library for the pursuit of knowledge, information and pleasure; to increase public awareness of library resources; to raise funds for library enhancements; and to provide volunteer help to the library and its patrons. Friends yearly memberships run from October 1 to September 30.

**If you would like to become a Friend of Los Gatos Public Library, please complete the membership application below and mail to: Friends of Los Gatos Public Library, 110 East Main Street, Los Gatos, CA 95030**

Name

Address

CityStateZip

Telephonee-mail

( ) I would like to become a member. Enclosed is my membership application and a check made payable to Friends of Los Gatos Library.

Tax deductible, annual dues are as follows:

( ) Senior/Student \$10( ) Individual \$15( ) Couple/Family \$25( ) Life Member \$500

( ) Sustaining \$50( ) Patron \$100( ) Business \$100( ) Additional Gift

( ) Gift Membership in the amount of \$Name:

Address:

( ) I would like to volunteer for:

( ) Book sales( ) Hospitality( ) Programs( ) Publicity( ) Library volunteer( ) Membership

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EDITOR: MARY ANN COOK

LOS GATOS, CA 95030

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OF LOS GATOS PUBLIC LIBRARY



FRIENDS

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GET FOOLED BY TROMPE L'OEIL  
MURALIST JOHN PUGH.  
FRIDAY FORUM, MAY 19.

# off the shelf

## Get fooled by John Pugh

### Trompe l'oeil muralist presents slide show May 19



Internationally renowned muralist John Pugh, whose studio is in the Los Gatos hills, will present a slide show of his work at the **Friends' Annual Meeting May 19.**

Pugh, a trompe l'oeil (fool the eye) muralist, has won and executed commissions for his murals throughout the U.S.—indeed, from all over the world. His awards are legion and he was the only muralist mentioned in *Masters of Deception* by Al Seckel.



Three of Pugh's most recent commissions are at the Aquatic Center in Fremont; a piece to be built on Hollywood Boulevard where the first movie theater in Hollywood once stood; and a huge (45' x 100") depiction slated for Honolulu. The effect of the Fremont mural will be like gazing into an aquarium, except you'll see humans gliding along, not fish. In Hollywood the mural will be on the Guinness Book of World Records building—a tribute to moviedom, with constellations and Greek gods circling the globe. The Hawaiian work will capture a humongous wave with a portrait

of Queen Lili'uokalani emerging from its depths. A grand staircase will issue forth like sea foam, while children of many races come to offer gifts and share aloha.

Several of his incredibly lifelike renditions distinguish Los Gatos walls, both public and private, inside and out. For instance, his work is on the Honda agency wall on Los Gatos Boulevard, enlivens the outside Pasta Restaurant wall on Main Street, and fools folks inside the Great Bear Coffeeshop with its realism. The coffeeshop rendition pays homage to a famed Manet painting. Pugh's work is found in private homes, too, enhancing wine cellars and dining rooms.

Pugh often incorporates a history of the site along with the artwork. Extensive research and a love of history combine to produce provocative murals, specific to each site. Crumbling classical columns are one of his signature elements: Brick walls erode so that the past and future can be shown in one



composition—one more element of the artist's magic. It's claimed that so real are his images that people tend to strike up conversations with the figures in the murals. Or attempt to put a glass down on a non-existent table. Now, that's fooling the eye.

His latest recognition is a book titled *The Murals of John Pugh: beyond Trompe l'oeil*, written by **Kevin Bruce**, due out in August from Ten Speed Press. Copies can be ordered at the program.

**The forum starts at 7 p.m. with refreshments; slide show starts at 7:30. A short business meeting precedes the slide show.**





# President's Message

Maureen O'Connell



Dear Friends:  
Many of our members are passionately dedicated to the goal of a new library for Los Gatos. To educate themselves about recent developments, the Board invited **Town Manager Deborah Figone** to give us a report at our March meeting. She graciously accepted and updated us on the process and progress

# president

of plans for a new library. At this time, the town has invested considerable time and money on a feasibility study for a new civic center.

This study will analyze the space and needs of each department housed at the civic center and should be completed by year's end. I was curious about the history of the library facilities in our town, so I pursued George Bruntz's *History of Los Gatos*, published in 1971. Mr. Bruntz tells us that the first reading room in the town was established at Wilder's Store on Main Street in 1898. A new permanent library opened in 1903 with a \$10,000 grant from the Carnegie Foundation. It was first located on University Avenue and then moved

to East Main Street. In 1965 our present civic center, including the library, was completed and continues to today.

The world of knowledge management has been impacted enormously since our library was built. Many of us believe that a new facility is needed to carry us well into the 21st century.

Several of our neighboring communities in Santa Clara Valley have constructed new libraries in recent years. For example, I have visited the new sites in Saratoga, Santa Clara and the Rose Garden branch in San Jose.

The many innovations and technological advances that have been incorporated into their facilities is truly amazing. The Friends look forward to being part of the planning and implementation in Los Gatos. We welcome comments from our members as the process unfolds.



## New officers: 2006-2007

Here's the new slate of officers, with a twist—co-presidents.

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Co-Presidents           | Heather Jaramillo<br>Virginia O'Reilly |
| Vice President          | Maureen O'Connell                      |
| Recording Secretary     | Sylvia O'Sullivan                      |
| Corresponding Secretary | Gwen Davis                             |
| Treasurer               | Ray Clark                              |
| Programs                | Mary Ann Cook                          |
| Membership              | Judy Etherington                       |
| Book Sales              | Marge Rice                             |
| Grant Writer            | Rita Baum                              |
| Newsletter              | Carol Hamilton                         |
| Hospitality             | Doris Epstein                          |
| Parliamentarian         | Dale Hill                              |
| Publicity               | Pamela Laurence                        |
| Archivist               | Jean Nelson                            |
| Directors at Large      | Joanne Crum<br>Mary Martin             |



Dale Hill loads books for shipping that she has sold on eBay.

# Children's Summer Programs

by Sandy Wee, Youth Services  
Supervisor

## Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales

Join the 2006 **Summer Reading Club for kid ages 0-6**. Sign up at the library between June 1 and July 31. Read 10 books, magazines and comic books and receive a prize packet (one per person). Hear Teens Read to Kids before the program starts.

## Creature Features @ Your Library

Join our annual **Teen Summer Reading Club for students 13-17**. The theme is **Creature Features @ Your Library**. Starting June 1, teens may register in person at the library or online. Gifts will be available to teens when they register and also when they complete the program by July 31.

## Want to talk about books?

Kids' book clubs meet the last Thursday of every month. Effective in June, the times will be:

**Book Birds: 4th graders**  
3:30-4:00 p.m.

**Cheesemuffins: 5th graders**  
4:10-4:40 p.m.

**Book Worms: 6th-7th grade**  
4:50-5:20 p.m.

# children

**Booking with Parents: 3rd graders & parents, 5:30-6:00 p.m.**

For more information,  
call: 408.354.6893

email:

[childrenslibrarian@losgatosca.gov](mailto:childrenslibrarian@losgatosca.gov)

website:

<http://library.losgatosca.gov/> click  
kidsindex or teenindex.html



## San Jose Children's Shelter

by Rita Baum

### Thanks to Our Members

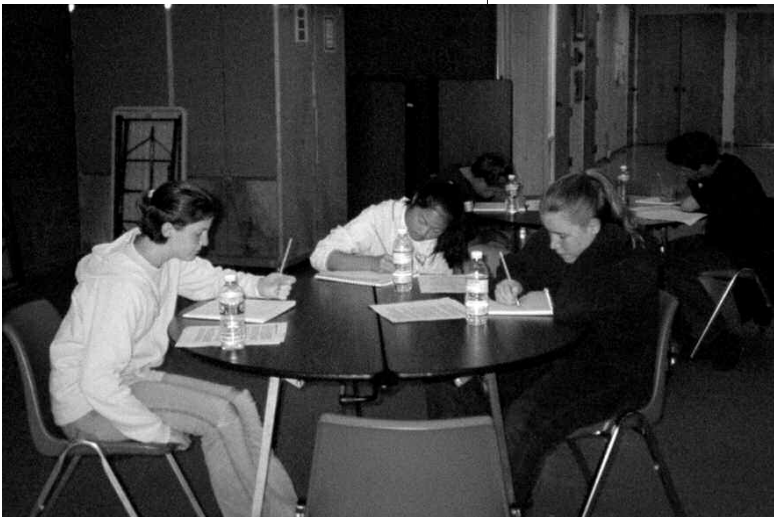
In response to a call for volunteers in last winter's newsletter, 16 enthusiastic Friends of the Library volunteered to read to children at the San Jose Children's Shelter. The group of women and men

attended an orientation session in March, where they learned important aspects of reading to this very special group. Volunteers will read to individual children and to small groups.

Children and teens who participated in the Young Writers Workshop held at the Shelter last year said they were not able to relate to examples of heroes and other storybook characters because *none of them had read a book, or had someone read one to them*.

To participate at the shelter volunteers need to provide identification, provide a copy of their driver's licenses, be fingerprinted and fill out an application. The next orientation for volunteers will be announced in winter, 2007.

Thanks also to Friends who donated books to start a library at the Shelter. Some volunteers will set up and maintain a library where children can not only borrow a book, but can take it with them when they are placed in a foster home. Thanks to our wonderful members.





# New Books in the Library

Compiled by Sue Anderson,  
Reference Librarian

## Fiction

***Year of Wonders: a Novel of the Plague*** by Geraldine Brooks  
In 1666 an infected bolt of cloth carries the plague to an isolated English village. Residents control the outbreak by quarantining themselves within the village boundaries, and the year becomes fraught with menace and wonder. Based on a true historical incident.

***Locked Rooms*** by Laurie R. King  
The latest in a series of the author's Sherlock Holmes spin-offs, this stand-alone story finds Holmes' wife, Mary Russell, confronting her past midst the wreckage of the San Francisco earthquake.

***Death of an Ordinary Man*** by Glen Duncan  
Nathan Clark is dead, but far from at rest. His ghost spends the day of his own wake trying to discover—using his new knowledge of the innermost thoughts of the living—just how he came to die. In his quest he is repeatedly drawn to a room in his house he never knew existed.

***In the Company of the Courtesan*** by Sarah Dunant.  
The time is 1527 and the place a vividly described Renaissance Italy. A lovely and seductive courtesan, Fiammetta Bianchini, and the dwarf Bucino, her business manager and best friend, flee Rome for Venice. There they embark on the

# books

difficult task of recouping both their fortune and social standing.

## Non-Fiction

***The Art of Gaman: Arts and Crafts from the Internment Camps 1942-1946*** by Delphine Hirasuna  
WW II Japanese internment camps were spoken of only rarely by Japanese-American survivors. A motto that came out of the camps was “We have to gaman”—accept the situation with patience and dignity. The book captures this wisdom in artworks patiently and meticulously created using scraps and other found materials. A fascinating example of art in adversity.

***Ellis Island Portraits: 1905-1920*** by Augustus F. Sherman  
Sherman was for many years a clerk within the Immigration Bureau of Ellis Island. And, during

## Book Sale totals

Book sale totals for the past three months were: January, \$3,362, which includes the Saturday, one-day sale of special books, as well as ongoing shelf sales. For February the total was \$1,534 and, for the wettest March in memory, which may have promulgated more reading, the sum was \$1,698.



that time, he photographed more than 200 families, groups, and individuals as they threaded their way through the immigration process to become new Americans. The book displays 100 of his best photos.

***Confluence*** by Nathaniel Tripp  
Born of Tripp's membership in the Connecticut River Joint Commission, this book highlights the ways in which rivers connect us all to one another. In a confluence of art and science, the author explains how humans, too, are rivers, carrying many of the same chemicals in their bloodstreams that the world's rivers bear in their watery contents.

***Electric Universe*** by David Bodanis  
Electricity, once seen as merely a curious property of certain substances, is now understood as a major force in everything, beginning with atomic structure. This book contains the history of this phenomenon and the many scientists who plumbed its secrets.



## Financial Report

Total closing balance for the Friends of the Library as of late March was \$155,004. That figure includes the Wells Fargo account of \$77,616; the Maximizer at \$77,321; and the checking account of \$67.



# Library Director's Corner

Peggy Conaway



Building a new library facility for Los Gatos has been a goal of the Friends of the Library for many years. The Civic Center Master Plan, which includes the library, will be completed by the end of 2006. Anderson Brule Architects of San Jose will work with staff, council and community members to complete the project begun in 2002. The Master Plan will consider use of the current Civic Center site,

space needs of the various departments and services, fiscal analysis and funding strategies, and a phasing plan for remodeling or new construction of buildings.

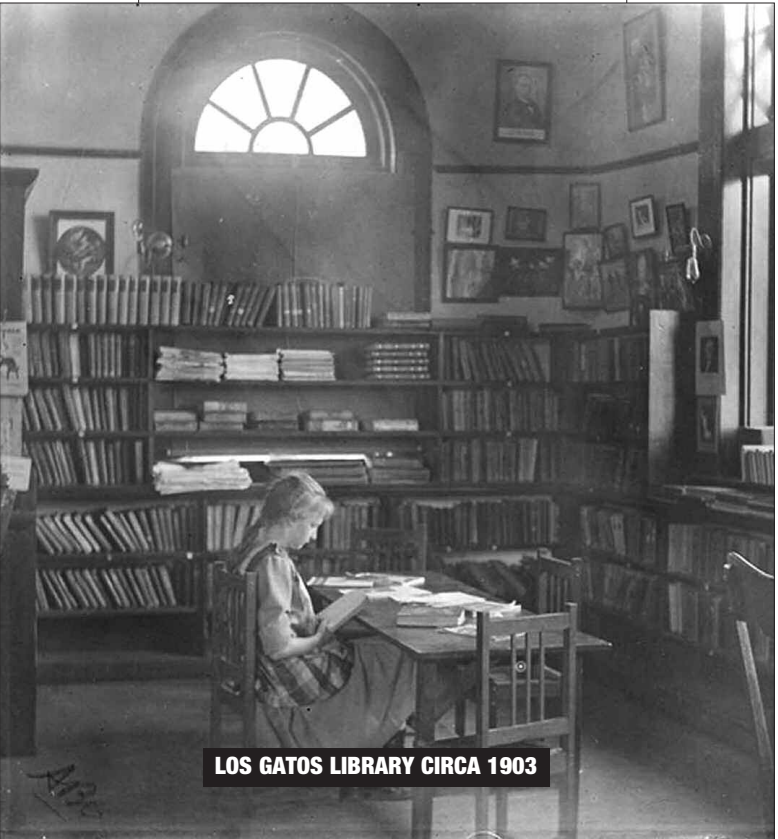
Children's Services at Los Gatos Public Library have been in place for 100 years – from 1906 to 2006. The doors of the new Carnegie Library at 14 University Avenue opened to the public on September 25, 1903. **Miss Henrianna A. Rankin**, a graduate of Los Gatos High School, was town librarian from 1906 to 1909, and during her first year on the job she carved out space from the one-room library for a Children's Corner. During this era, children were not very welcome in the library, and so her actions

# director

received notice and praise from the California State Library. State officials were so impressed that a photographer was sent to Los Gatos to take a picture which appeared in the State Library Bulletin. Library staff will plan a 100th Birthday Party for the summer.

The library and museum history project, ***Hooked on Los Gatos***, has entered a new phase of intensive work to build the project's database. The beginnings of that work are posted at:

[www.historylosgatos.org](http://www.historylosgatos.org)



The Hamsher collection, on the walls of the lower level of the library, is now available online, and can be printed out for homework

assignments or other personal or educational uses.

Staff and volunteers hope to have 1,000 photographs posted to the site by the end of the fiscal year. Eventually nearly 3,000 photographs, letters, news clippings and death records will be available in an easily searchable format.

**If you are interested in helping with the research and data entry necessary to complete the database, please give me a call at 354-6895.**

***Images of Rail: Railroads of Los Gatos*** is the title of a new book which will be released by Arcadia Publishing in the fall. I am currently working with railroad buff **Edward Kelley** to complete the book for publica-

tion. Ed has authored several articles on railroad history, and started as a volunteer on the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad at age 13. He has since worked on other lines, including Roaring Camp and Big Trees Railroad.

The book will be available for purchase at the library and museums, via online booksellers, and at a number of Los Gatos retail outlets. Royalties from the book will be donated to the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad and ***Hooked on Los Gatos***—the Library and Museum History Project.





## Friend Indeed: Jean and Larry Nelson

by Mary Ann Cook

Libraries, art and gardens are a good perimeter as well as definition for the Nelsons—Jean and Larry. Jean is a devoted volunteer for the Friends of the Library and Larry “volunteers to help the volunteer,” as he puts it.

The reason the refreshment table looks so lovely at Friends’ functions is because Jean Nelson crafts them, using the products of her garden, linen closet and imagination. Jean has long been an art devotee, serving as a Los Gatos art docent for many years after her retirement. And she and Larry both love gardening and “sharing what we grow with

others,” as they put it. So Forum tables are adorned with the Nelson bounty.

Jean is a dedicated volunteer in many areas: indeed, she volunteered so much of her time at Blossom Hill School library that she was put on the payroll! Prin-

cipal Frank Allen asked her to apply for the job of District Librarian. Though she had neither a teaching credential nor a library credential, she got the job. And found herself working at a different Los Gatos elementary school each day of the week, including Lexington.

Larry, too, is retired: he was an engineer and project manager for Owens Corning. They have two grown daughters in Ohio and San Diego.

These days both Nelsons are fixtures at Friends’ functions, helping out at book sales and Friday Forums. You might say they’re the host and hostess of the forums. “We’ve been described as a good team,” says Jean with characteristic modesty.

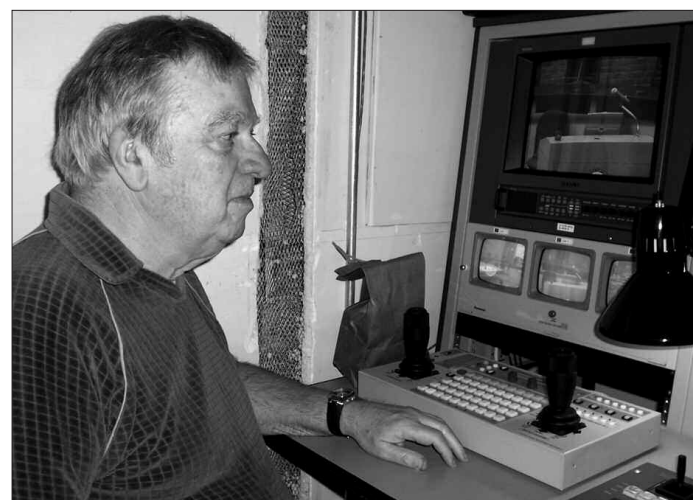
Indeed they are, and Friends of the LG library are all the richer for their presence.



## 101 non-culinary uses for olive oil? Carol Firenze explains them all in *The Passionate Olive*



Carol Firenze (above) discussed her book “*The Passionate Olive*” at the Friends Friday Forum, April 7th.



Jim Dethlefsen of KCAT filmed Carol Firenze’s talk.



Marti Menacho of Olivas de Oro olive company offered olive oil tastings.

## Meet the Staff: Carol Pham

by Mary Ann Cook

**Carol Pham** is the circulation supervisor and the tech guru at the library. As such she oversees the circulation staff and answers computer glitches.

Sounds like either one would be a handful. “I’m learning on the job,” she says, laughing in a self-deprecating way.

She’s only been on board full time since August, but already she’s won a solid following of those who count on her. However, Pham was a known quantity at Los Gatos because she worked on an on-call

basis for a year or more before assuming the full-time role. And she has quite a range of library and tech experience.

Carol has been working in Santa Clara county libraries since she was 16 and still in high school. Which experience stood her in good stead, since she helped earn her way through San Jose State University by working for the library.

Her degree is in business administration with an emphasis on international business. Besides her 15-year stint at the county library, she also held down a job at a dot.com company for a while-without giving up the library position. Today, as a sideline, she has her own business, Invitations by Imagination, which she started with two other women. All three are librarians and met through the system. Just as the title suggests, their business is the design of custom-made invitations for all occasions.

Pham’s parents came from Vietnam in 1975 and the family first settled in Moline, Illinois. Then her father’s work took them to the Bay Area in 1986.

Carol is single, but there are hints that there’s a boyfriend in the wings.

